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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 175866 TOSEC 080039
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHGN/USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE 7931
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 175866 TOSEC 080039

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOL RPT KHARTOUM 3096 ACTION SECSTATE 12 JUL 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 3096

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PEPR, XF, US
SUBJ: BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE

REF: STATE 172477

1. I BRIEFED PRESIDENT NIMEIRI#RWAC OKNN (DEFTEL
(OMITTING PARAS DIRECTED AT DAMASCUS) DURING OUR JULY 11
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MEETING. NIMEIRI EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT USG WAS
REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACE PROCESS AND WAS
CONTEMPLATING POSSIBILITY OF SECRETARY VANCE RETURNING TO
AREA AND CONSULTING WITH PARTIES ABOUT US IDEAS WHICH
COULD HELP BRIDGE GAPS.

2. NIMEIRI TOOK THE OCCASION TO BRIEF ME ABOUT HIS

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RECONCILIATION MISSION UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE
ARAB LEAGUE. HE SAID CONCENSUS AMONG ARAB
LEADERS WAS THAT SADAT INITIATIVE HAD FOUNDERED ON ISRAELI
INFLEXIBILITY. THEY FELT THAT SADAT SHOULD BREAK OFF THE
EFFORT AND CALL FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT. ALL THE ARABS
(EXCEPT LIBYA, BUT INCLUDING SYRIA AND ALGERIA), SIAD
NIMEIRI, FELT THAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE EITHER A RETURN
TO GENEVA OR THE PRELIMINARY MEETING IN NEW YORK SUGGESTED
BY UNSYG. SADAT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BREAK OFF
THE INITIATIVE BUT HE WANTED A FINAL WAITING PERIOD FOR
RESULTS OF PRESENT EFFORTS BEFORE ACTUALLY DOING SO. HE
TOLD NIMEIRI THAT HE HAD IN FACT BROKEN OFF THE INITIATIVE
WHEN HE RECALLED HIS NEGOTIATORS FROM JERUSALEM. THEN
PRESIDENT CARTER HAD WRITTEN SADAT AND SADAT THEN WENT
INTO HIS "WAIT AND SEE" PERIOD. NIMEIRI SAID SADAT HAD
FIRST SAID HE WOULD FORMALLY DISAVOW HIS
INITIATIVE AT THE END OF JULY. LATER HE HAD SAID HE WOULD
WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER. NIMEIRI SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS
MISSION WHICH WAS TO DEVISE A NEW STRATEGY FOR PEACE,
IF RQUIRED.

3. ALTHOUGH SYRIA AND ALGERIA HAD TOLD NIMEIRI THEY
WERE READY TO RESUME HOSTILITIES, NIMEIRI'S PERSONAL
JUDGMENT WAS THAT NEITHER ISRAELI NOR THE ARABS WOULD
INITIATE HOSTILITIES WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.
HE SAID ATTITUDES OF BOTH SAUDIS AND GULF LEADERS WERE
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QUITE NEGATIVE. THEY BELIEVED ISRAEL HAD BEEN
GIVEN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE FOR
PEACE AND HAD SHOWN IT WAS NOT INTERESTED. THEY WERE
ALSO STILL SEETHING THAT SADAT HAD GONE TO JERUSALEM,
POINTING OUT THAT EVEN USG DID NOT RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM
AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL. NIMEIRI HAD TOLD THEM THIS WAS A
MERE PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE MATTER, AND THAT
YOU COULD NOT CHANGE HISTORY. SADAT HAD STOOD FIRM
AGAINST A SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL, CESSION OF ANY
ARAB TERRITORY, AND FOR JUSTICE FOR THE PALESTINIANS.
NIMEIRI CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE HAD NOT TALKED TO ARAB
PRESS AT ANY POINT ON HIS TRAVELS. THEY WOULD HAVE
EATEN ME ALIVE, HE SAID RUEFULLY.
BERGUS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: OMISSION (#) PARA 1 - CORRECTION TO FOLLOW

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NNN

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